

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 27 as indicated herein.

Please cancel Claim 28.

1. (ORIGINAL) An adhesive composition comprising at least one natural or synthetic elastomer, at least one styrene ethylene-butylene styrene block copolymer, at least one heat reactive alkyl phenolic resin having a hydroxymethyl reactive group, and at least one phenolic antioxidant.
2. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one accelerator activator.
3. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 2 wherein said at least one accelerator activator is selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, magnesium oxide, and lead oxide.
4. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 3 wherein said at least one accelerator activator is zinc oxide.
5. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 1 further comprising a tackifier.
6. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 5 wherein said tackifier is a hydrocarbon resin.
7. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 1 Further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of antimicrobials, antibacterials, and antifungals.
8. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 1 further comprising an inorganic filler.

9. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 1 wherein said at least one natural or synthetic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of a styrene isoprene block copolymer, a butyl rubber, a natural rubber, and mixtures thereof.
10. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 1 wherein said at least one styrene ethylene-butylene styrene block copolymer is a maleic anhydride modified styrene ethylene-butylene styrene block copolymer.
11. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 1 wherein said heat reactive alkyl phenolic resin has hydroxymethyl and halomethyl groups.
12. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 11 wherein said heat reactive alkyl phenolic resin is heat reactive brominated octylphenol resin.
13. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 1 wherein said at least one phenolic antioxidant is a hindered phenol.
14. (ORIGINAL) An adhesive composition comprising:
 - a. 19.3 weight percent natural rubber;
 - b. 3.2 weight percent of a styrene ethylene-butylene styrene block copolymer;
 - c. 9.8 weight percent styrene isoprene block copolymer;
 - d. 0.1 weight percent reclaimed butyl rubber;
 - e. 0.8 weight percent butyl rubber;
 - f. 1.0 weight percent of a phenolic antioxidant;
 - g. 0.7 weight percent of a heat reactive alkyl phenolic resin having a hydroxymethyl reactive group;
 - h. 1.6 weight percent titanium dioxide;
 - i. 0.8 weight percent antimicrobial;
 - j. 30.4 weight percent calcium carbonate;
 - k. 1.7 weight percent zinc oxide;
 - l. 0.02 weight percent odor mask; and
 - m. 30.5 weight percent hydrocarbon tackifying resin.

15. (ORIGINAL) The adhesive composition of claim 14 wherein said styrene ethylene-butylene styrene block copolymer is maleic anhydride modified styrene ethylene-butylene styrene block copolymer; wherein said phenolic antioxidant is pentaerythrityl tetrakis [3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl propionate]; and wherein said heat reactive alkyl phenolic resin having a hydroxymethyl reactive group is heat reactive brominated octylphenol resin.
16. (ORIGINAL) A tape comprising the adhesive composition according to claim 1.
17. (ORIGINAL) A tape comprising at least one backing having deposited thereon a layer comprising the adhesive composition according to claim 1.
18. (ORIGINAL) The tape of claim 17 wherein said backing is selected from the group consisting of a natural polymer, a synthetic polymer, and mixtures thereof.
19. (ORIGINAL) The tape of claim 18 wherein said synthetic polymer is a polyolefin.
20. (ORIGINAL) The tape of claim 19 wherein said polyolefin is a polyethylene.
21. (ORIGINAL) a tape comprising:
 - a. At least one backing;
 - b. a first layer comprising the adhesive composition according to claim 1, having a reinforcement dispersed therein, deposited on a surface of the backing; and
 - c. a second layer comprising the adhesive composition according to claim 1 deposited on said first layer.

22. (ORIGINAL) The tape of claim 21 wherein said backing further comprises a metal containing layer deposited on a surface of said backing layer on which no adhesive has been deposited.
23. (ORIGINAL) The tape of claim 21 wherein said backing is selected from the group consisting of a natural polymer, a synthetic polymer, and mixtures thereof.
24. (ORIGINAL) The tape of claim 23 wherein said synthetic polymer is a polyolefin.
25. (ORIGINAL) The tape of claim 24 wherein said polyolefin is a polyethylene.
26. (ORIGINAL) The tape of claim 21 wherein said reinforcement is a woven fabric scrim.
27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for covering a closure system for use with air ducts and air connectors by applying a tape selected from the group consisting of the tape in accordance with claim 17 and the tape in accordance with claim 21.
28. (CANCELED)
29. (ORIGINAL) A composition suitable for use as an antioxidant comprising at least one heat reactive alkyl phenolic resin having a hydroxymethyl reactive group and at least one phenolic antioxidant.
30. (ORIGINAL) The composition of claim 29 further comprising at least one accelerator activator.
31. (ORIGINAL) The composition of claim 30 wherein said at least one accelerator activator is zinc oxide.
32. (ORIGINAL) The composition of claim 29 wherein said heat reactive alkyl phenolic resin has hydroxymethyl and halomethyl reactive groups.
33. (ORIGINAL) The composition of claim 32 wherein said heat reactive alkyl phenolic resin is heat reactive brominated octylphenol resin.